



Forest Health Protection Pacific Southwest Region



Date:, 2017
File Code: 3400

To: Patricia Grantham, Supervisor Klamath National Forest

Subject: Ruby Gap, Scott River Ranger District

At the request of Carl Varak, Silviculturist, a site visit was made to Ruby Gap on May 25, 2017, where there was an 87 acre Jeffery pine plantation with extreme storm damage to 10-15% of the standing trees. Attendees included Roger Siemers, Carl Varak, Marissa Jones, Caitlynn Williamson, Kelsey Flathers, Karl Dietzler (Klamath NF), Pete Angwin, and Cynthia Snyder (FHP).

Background

Ruby Gap is a ridgetop (elevation about 5,500 feet) stand at the head of the Indian Creek watershed about 10 miles north of Fort Jones that was planted to Jeffery pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) following the Haystack Fire, 1958. The Jeffery pine planting stock was 'Southern Sierra Low Site' stock making it 'off-site' for the Klamath Mountains. The 55 year old stand was thinned in 2013 to half the original basal area as part of the Mt. Baldy Timber Sale. Resulting basal area was about 60 square feet per acre of trees approximately 15-24 inches in diameter at breast height.

Winter 2016-2017 saw heavy snow in the Klamath Mountains, especially in February and March. These spring snows are especially heavy creating a load on the standing trees many of which failed near mid-bole or at the base of the live crown (Figure 2). Failure was estimated to be about 10-15% of the standing pines.

Observations and Discussion

Ips beetles were found in several of the down logs though not in the standing trees. There was no evidence of Jeffery pine beetle (*Dendroctonus jeffreyi*) in any standing trees, nor wood borer species. Tops were scattered throughout the stand and there were discussions of the probability of Ips moving into the standing trees. Although it is likely that the Ips would remain in the down tops, the District maintained that any further loss within the stand would be highly undesirable. It was determined that bucking the tops to 3-4 ft. lengths to a 3 inch top would reduce the likelihood of further Ips spread.

If you have any questions regarding this report and/or need additional information, please contact Cynthia Snyder at 530-226-2437 or Pete Angwin at 530-226-2436.

/s/ Cynthia Snyder

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